international assistance. However, only on receipt of the detailed project proposal would further action be possible.

Adverse effect of continuous disturbances in J&K state on tourist traffic

370. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to continuous disturbed conditions in Jammu & Kashmir, tourist traffic to that State has come down to zero level;

(b) if so, what are the details of the steps taken by Government to develop tourist traffic in the neighbouring State of Himachal Pradesh which has the potential to attract tourists.

(c) whether the Himachal Pradesh Government has asked for any Central aid in this regard and if so, the quantum thereof, and

(d) the amount given to that State so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, the Central Government provide assistance to the State Governments, on the basis of specific proposals and subject to merit and interse priorities.

(c) In consultation with the Government of Himachal Pradesh, the Central Government has agreed in principle to provide financial assistance of schemes/projects for nearly Rs. 83/-lakhs during 1990-91.

(d) No amount has been released so far during the current financial year.

Sethubhava village in Tamil Nadu being used as entry point by smugglers

371. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Indian Express dated July 1, 1990 (Madras Edition) under the caption 'LTTE operations in Tamil Nadu-the village that is the gateway';

(b) whether it is a fact that the village Sethubhava Chittiram was being used by smugglers as the entry point to enter India for smuggling of narcotics, silver and other goods and even illicit arms;

(c) whether it also a fact that the Coast Guards and the Tamil Nadu police were found to be conniving with the smugglers; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to apprehend the smugglers and to smash the gangs operating in the area?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Customs authorities of jurisdiction have reported that the Tamil Nadu coast continues to be sensitive to smuggling activities. But no case of seizure of contraband goods that have been smuggled through the village Sethubhava Chittiram has been reported in the recent past.

The Customs authorities remain vigilant against smuggling activities on the Tamil Nadu coast. Close co-operation is being maintained between all the agencies concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling on this coast. Active assistance of the Coast Guard, the navy and the State Police is also being taken. However, connivance of the Coast Guard and the Tamil Nadu Police with the smugglers has not been reported so far.